



The Water Dragon's Bride

Story & Art by

Rei Toma

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...I
DIDN'T
UNDER-
STAND.

FOR
A
LONG
TIME...



I
COULDN'T
COMPREHEND...

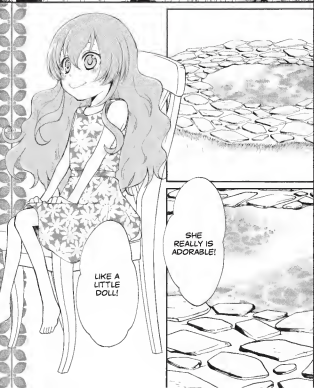
... THAT
THIS
WASN'T
MY
WORLD.

CHAPTER

1







LIKE A
LITTLE
DOLL!

SHE
REALLY IS
ADORABLE!

...KNOW,
RIGHT?!

L



LOOK,
I MADE
COOKIES!



YOU'RE
SUCH
A SILLY
MOMMY!

SHE
RESEMBLES
HER GRAND-
MA WITH ALL
HER CURLY
RED HAIR
AND LOVELY
GREY EYES.

I
SURE
AM.

ISN'T
SHE JUST
THE
CUTEST?

WHAT
IS IT,
DAD?

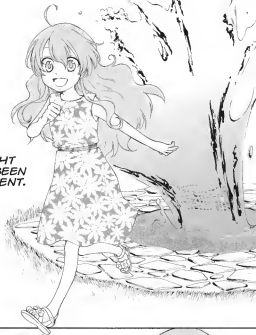
IF, AT
THAT
TIME...

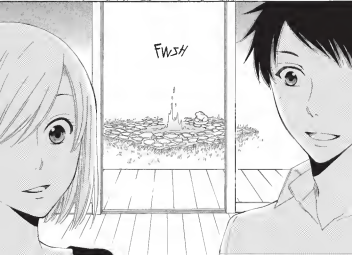


HEY!
COME
LOOK AT
THIS!



...MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
DIFFERENT.



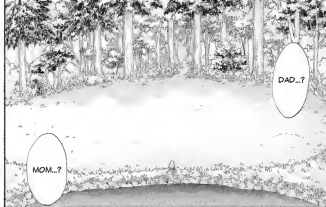












MOM...?

DAD...?



THE
COOK-
IES...



I
HAD
NO
IDEA...





MOM...

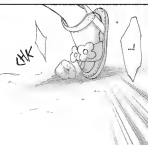
DAD...

I DIDN'T
KNOW
HOW DARK
THE NIGHT
COULD GET...



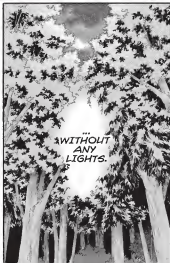
MOM

DAD...



CHK

—



...
WITHOUT
ANY
LIGHTS.



VSH















AH!
BROTHER...

IT'S
ALL
RIGHT.



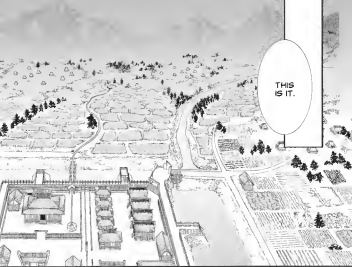
I'M
HUNGRY...

GEEYONG



COME
WITH
US.

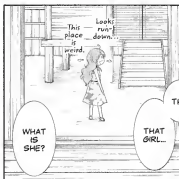




THIS
IS IT.



THE
BIGGEST
HOUSE
OVER
THERE
IS MY HOME.





CAN WE
TAKE
CARE OF
HER UNTIL
THAT
HAPPENS?

PLEASE,
LET'S
HELP HER
FIND HER
HOME.

IT
LOOKS
LIKE
SHE'S
LOST!

SHE
FRIGHT-
ENS
ME...

I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
ANYONE
LIKE
HER...



WHERE'S
THE TRAIN
STATION?
IF I CAN
GET TO THE
TRAIN, I CAN
GO HOME
ON MY OWN.

HOW
ABOUT
THE
BUS?

OH,
CAN I
BORROW
YOUR
PHONE
FIRST?



WHERE
IS THIS
PLACE?

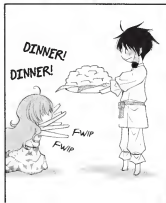
HELLO,
SIR AND
MA'AM!

IT
LOOKS
LIKE
WE'RE
SUPER
FAR
FROM
THE
CITY!



















HEY HEH.
I GOT
LOST, BUT
AT LEAST
I FOUND
A NEW FRIEND.



I'M
ASAHI.



H I CANT.
WE'RE NOT
REALLY
ALLOWED
TO GO
NEAR
THERE
TOO OFTEN.

CAN YOU
TAKE ME?
I FEEL LIKE
I COULD
FIND MY
WAY HOME
FROM
THERE..

HM?
YES...

HEY,
SUBARU.
THERE'S
A LAKE
IN THE
FOREST.
RIGHT?



THAT'S
WHERE
THE
WATER
DRAGON
GOD
LIVES.

WHY
NOT?



PFFT...

AH
HA
HA!



WHICH
PART?

THAT
WAS A
JOKE,
RIGHT?



AND YOU
KNOW
WHAT?
DAD WAS
DOING IT
THE WHOLE
TIME!

ALL RIGHT,
I'LL TELL
YOU! I
BELIEVED
IN HIM
UNTIL LAST
YEAR!

I GET IT!
YOU'RE
THE KIND
OF KID
WHO STILL
BELIEVES
IN SANTA!

SANTA...?
?

?

?



P W N A



RITUAL
...?

WE GO
TO SAY
PRAYERS OF
THANKS TO
THE WATER
GOD FOR HIS
BLESS-
INGS.

SO,
LIKE A
FESTI-
VAL?



OH, I
KNOW! THE
RITUAL IS
HAPPENING
SOON.

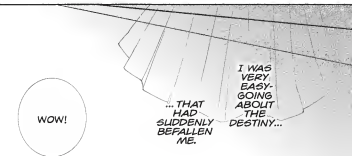
WE'LL
BE ABLE
TO GO
THEN.



I BET
MY MOM
AND DAD
WILL GO
THERE
LOOKING
FOR ME!



WILL
THERE BE
COTTON
CANDY?

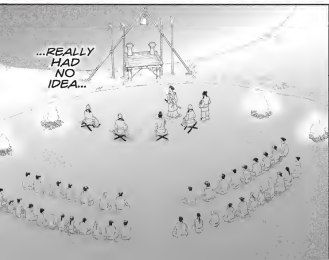


WOW!

... THAT
HAD
SUDDENLY
BEFALLEN
ME.

I WAS
VERY
EASY-
GOING
ABOUT
THE
DESTINY...







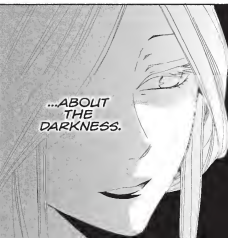
THERE'S
NO
COTTON
CANDY.

NO
CANDY
APPLES,
EITHER!



...AREN'T
HERE.

MY
MOM
AND
DAD...



...ABOUT
THE
DARKNESS.

I SEE...
HOW
UNFORTUNATE





THIS IS
KIND OF
A WEIRD
FESTIVAL...

IS
SUBARU
HERE
YET?



PLEASE
COME AND
TAKE HER
AS YOUR
WIFE.

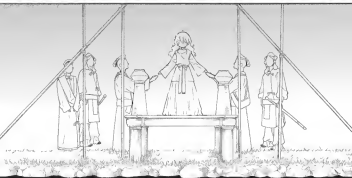
WE
OFFER
THIS
MAIDEN
OF OUR
VILLAGE.

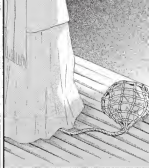
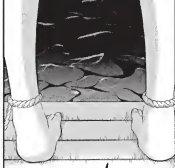
O NOBLE
WATER
DRAGON
GOD WHO
DWELLS IN
THIS LAKE,
WE THANK
YOU FOR
YOUR DAILY
BLESSINGS.

IS
SOMEBODY
GETTING
MARRIED?

A
WIFE?







... IT
INSTANTLY
DAWNED
ON ME.

BUT IN
THAT
MOMENT...



UNTIL
THEN...

...I HADN'T
UNDER-
STOOD
A THING.



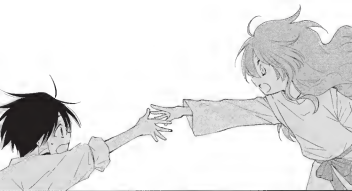


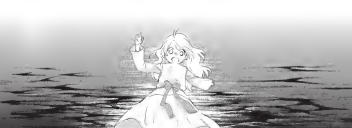
THE
BRIDE...

THE
SACRIFICE...

...WAS
ME.







SPLOSH



LET
ME
GO!

ASAHI..!



ASAHI!!!!!!

ASAHI!!

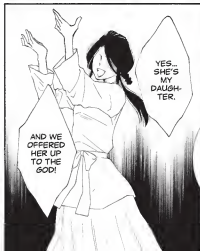


WHY?!
WHY
WOULD
YOU DO
THAT
TO
HER?!

MOTHER
...!



YOU
PROMISED
TO TREAT
HER LIKE
YOUR OWN
DAUGHTER!



AND WE
OFFERED
HER UP
TO THE
GOD!

YES...
SHE'S
MY
DAUGH-
TER.



A
CHILD
OF
THIS
FAMILY!



OUR
FAMILY'S
PROSPERITY
WILL
CONTINUE!
WE WILL
FLOURISH!

AND
WON'T
THE
WATER
DRAGON
GOD BE
PLEASED?



M-
MOTHER

...

IT
WAS...

...ALL A
DREAM,
THEN.



MOM.
AND DAD
WILL BE
THERE.

WHEN
I OPEN
MY EYES,
I'LL BE AT
HOME.

THIS
HAS TO
BE A
DREAM.

THERE
CAN'T BE
ANYTHING
SO SCARY
IN THE
WORLD.

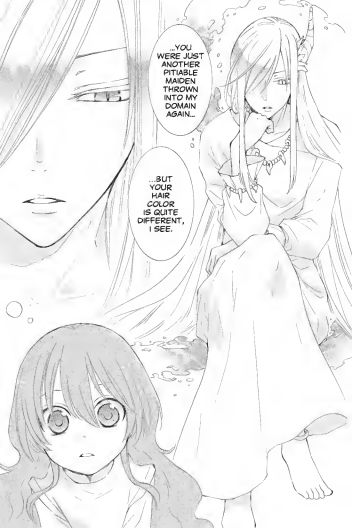
THERE'S
NO SUCH
THING AS
GODS.



HURRY
AND
WAKE
UP!

HURRY...





...YOU
WERE JUST
ANOTHER
PITIABLE
MAIDEN
THROWN
INTO MY
DOMAIN
AGAIN...

...BUT
YOUR
HAIR
COLOR
IS QUITE
DIFFERENT,
I SEE.



AND
SUCH A
YOUNG
CHILD...

HOW
FOOL-
ISH OF
THEM.



STAAARE



AH
HA
HA

FOOLISH
AND
STRANGE.

THAT
IS A
STRANGE
THOUGHT
INDEED.

THEY
THINK A
HUMAN
COULD
BE THE
WIFE OF
A GOD?





VERY
WELL.

I WILL
MAKE
YOU MY
BRIDE.





DO
YOU
MEAN BY
THAT?

WHAT...

OUR
FAMILY HAS
BECOME
POWERFUL.

IN THOSE
YEARS, OUR
VILLAGE HAS
PROSPERED.

WE HAVE
SACRIFICED
MAIDENS
FOR MANY
YEARS.

IT WAS
FOR THE
SAKE
OF OUR
VILLAGE.



SUBARU...
YOU MUST
BECOME
STRONG
AS WELL.



YES...

...MOTHER.



I'LL
BECOME
STRONG.

AND
WITH
THAT
POWER...

...I WILL
STRIKE
BACK...

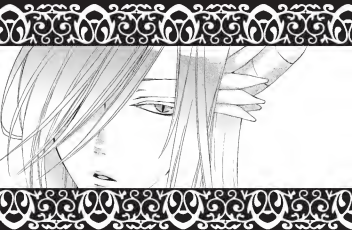
...AT
YOU...

...AND
THE
GOD!

Hello, I'm Rei Toma, and this is volume 1 of The Water Dragon's Bride. It ended up being another fantasy story. I hope you're all excited for it!

The setting is an ancient Japan-style fantasy world. I was trying for something like the Kofun period. This is an age characterized by haniwa clay figures, magatama beads and the side-knot hachimaki. It's a very interesting sort of era! I'm looking forward to getting used to drawing it.

I can't wait until I get to draw all the water god's water scenes in color. There's so many things I want to draw!



CHAPTER

2







BUT
IT IS
BEYOND
UNCOUTH
TO CALL
ME
"MISTER."



JUST
ONE
MOMENT.
I DO NOT
KNOW
WHAT YOU
MEAN BY
"MOLESTER"
OR
"PERV."



THEY
BECOME
FLUSTERED
AND MAKE A
COMMOTION,
REVEALING
EXACTLY HOW
UNREFINED
THEY ARE.

YOU
ARE NOT
ACTING AS
HUMANS DO.
HUMANS SEE
MY NOBLE
BEARING
AND EXCLAIM,
"AHH! HE IS
BEAUTIFUL,
AND YET I AM
FRIGHTENED!
PLEASE
SAVE ME!"

IN
ADDITION,
WHY ARE
YOU NOT
AMAZED? I AM
AN AWESOME
GOD,
BEAUTIFUL
AND
AGELESS.
I HAVE
LIVED FOR
MILLENNIA.



ARE
YOU IN
COSPLAY,
MISTER?



YOU
ARE MUCH
DIFFERENT
IN APPEAR-
ANCE THAN
THE PEOPLE
OF THE
VILLAGE.

AH.
I
SEE...



IT MEANS
YOU LOOK
LIKE A
GROWN-UP
BUT YOU
LIKE LITTLE
KIDS!

ANOTHER
WORD I
DO NOT
UNDER-
STAND.

VERY
WELL.
WHAT IS A
MOLESTER?
WHAT IS A
PERV?



I
SEE...

YOU
HUMANS
ARE
CONCERNED
OVER SOME
VERY PETTY
THINGS...



I WILL
MAKE
YOU MY
BRIDE...

WELL, I
SUPPOSE
YOU CAN
PROVIDE
ME SOME
ENTERTAIN-
MENT. GOOD.



...BUT
I WILL
WAIT UNTIL
YOU HAVE
FINISHED
MATURING.



NO,
THANK
YOU.



OKAY?



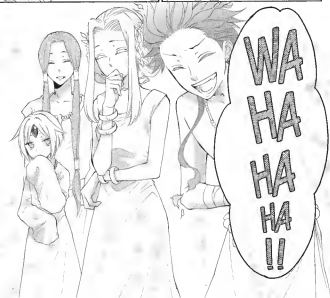
LIKE
SATOSHI,
TARO,
JIRO...

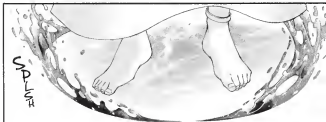
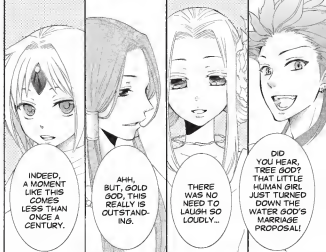
I'VE GOT
A TON OF
PEOPLE ON
MY FUTURE
HUSBAND
LIST!



JUST A
MOMENT.
DID YOU
REFUSE
ME?

YEP!







BE
SILENT.

YOU
VEX
ME.



SEE, THIS
IS WHY
NOBODY
LIKES YOU.
YOU'RE SO
BORING, AND
YOU CAN'T
EVEN TAKE
A JOKE!

OOH,
THE
COLDEST
OF GLARES.
HOW
FRIGHTEN-
ING.



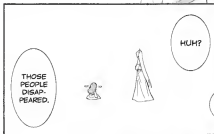
...WHO
HAD NO
LOVE
FOR YOU!

IT
WAS
L.

LONG
BEFORE
YOU
HATED
ME...

DO NOT
MIS-
UNDER-
STAND.







LONELY
...?



MISTER...
ARE YOU
LONELY?

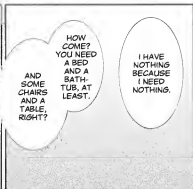


SO IS
THAT
WHY YOU
LIVE...
...IN
THIS ~~BRING~~
EMPTY
PLACE
WITH
NOTHING?

IT'S
SAD,
RIGHT?
WHEN
PEOPLE
HATE
YOU.



PERHAPS
YOU NEED
THEM...



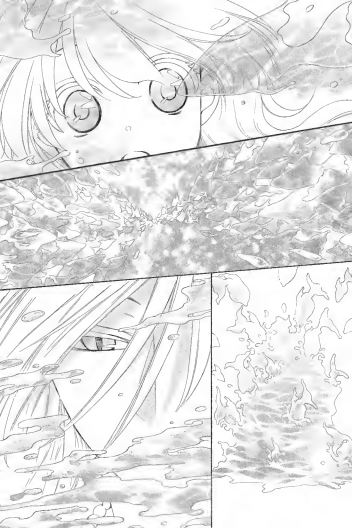
HOW
COME?
YOU NEED
A BED
AND A
BATH-
TUB, AT
LEAST.
AND
SOME
CHAIRS
AND A
TABLE,
RIGHT?

I HAVE
NOTHING
BECAUSE
I NEED
NOTHING.



WELL...

I
SUPPOSE
I CAN
SHOW OFF
A BIT.









I'M
GONNA
GO
HOME!

MY MOM
AND
DAD ARE
WAITING
FOR ME.



NO.

STOP
BEING
SELFISH.



EMBRACE
YOUR
FATE.

ALL
HUMANS
EVENTUALLY
DIE.

YOU WERE
MERELY
PARTED
FROM THEM
A TOUCH
SOONER
THAN YOU
WOULD HAVE
BEEN.











I WILL
RETURN
IT WHEN
YOU
BECOME
MY
BRIDE.

I
HAVE
COLLECT-
ED YOUR
VOICE.



HA
HA
HA!



WERE
YOU TO
RETURN
TO THE
VILLAGE,
WHAT DO
YOU THINK
WOULD
BECOME
OF
YOU?

THEY...



THEY
SANK YOU
TO THE
BOTTOM
OF THE
LAKE FOR
WEALTH
AND
PROSPERITY!

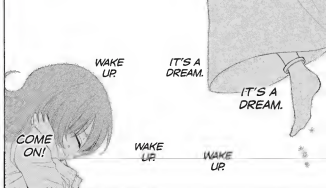
HUMANS
ARE SUCH
GREEDY
AND VULGAR
CREATURES!

THAT
WAS A
DREAM!

THIS
IS A
DREAM!

MY MOM
AND DAD
WOULD
NEVER DO
SOMETHING
LIKE THAT!





COME ON!

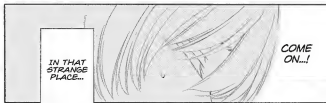
WAKE UP

IT'S A DREAM.

IT'S A DREAM.

WAKE UP

WAKE UP



IN THAT STRANGE PLACE...

COME ON...!



I REALLY BELIEVED ...

...I FELL ASLEEP.

...THIS
AWFUL
DREAM
WOULD
BE
OVER.

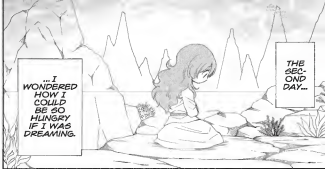
...THAT
IF I
WOKE
UP...

I
SLEPT
FOR
DAYS.



THE FIRST
DAY, I
WOKE UP
DISMAYED
THAT I
WAS STILL
THERE.



A black and white manga-style illustration of a young girl with long, dark, wavy hair sitting on a large, flat rock. She is looking down with a sad or thoughtful expression. The background features jagged, rocky mountain peaks under a cloudy sky. There are some small plants and rocks around her.

...I
WONDERED
HOW I
COULD
BE SO
HUNGRY
IF I WAS
DREAMING.

THE
SEC-
OND
DAY...

A black and white manga-style illustration showing a close-up of a young girl with long, light-colored hair. She has a sad or distressed expression, with her eyes looking down and a small tear visible on her cheek. She is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved garment with a bow at the waist.

THE
THIRD
DAY...

...MY
STOMACH
WAS SO
EMPTY IT
STARTED
TO SCARE
ME.



TEARS
RAN
FROM
MY
EYES.

I FELL
TO MY
KNEES.



...THAT
IT
WASN'T
A
DREAM.

AND
SOME-
HOW I
UNDER-
STOOD...



AND
SINCE
IT WAS
REAL...



WHY
DO YOU
CRY?

... I FINALLY
REALIZED...

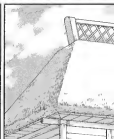
... THAT THIS
WORLD...



...WAS
A
CRUEL...



...AND
TERRIFYING
PLACE.



BACK
TO
THAT
LAKE?



SUBARU



DO YOU
SEEK THE
CRUEL
SIGHT OF
THAT GIRL'S
FISH-EATEN
BODY?

LEAVE
THIS
MATTER
ALONE.



THERE
IS NO
WAY FOR
YOU TO
BRING
HER
BACK.

WE
OFFERED
HER SOUL
TO THE
GOD.

HE
HAS
TAKEN
HER
AWAY.

AND
YOU'RE
THE ONE
WHO
SELFISHLY
OFFERED
HER UP.



BROTHER



I COULD
NEVER
GIVE UP
ON HER.



BROTHER!

BYE!
I'M
HEADED
OUT!



ASAHI'S
FACE,
LOST IN
TERROR...

HER
FACE IS
BURNED
INTO MY
MEMORY.

I CAN'T
GET IT
OUT OF
MY HEAD.



IF
ONLY
I HAD
CAUGHT
IT.

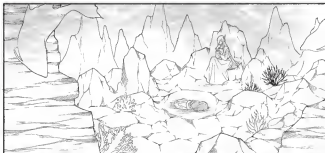
HER HAND,
OUTSTRETCHED
TOWARD ME...

L...

I
WAS
THE
ONE
WHO
KILLED
YOU.

IF I
HADN'T
BEGGED
THEM
TO LET
HER STAY
WITH
US...

IF I
HADN'T
BROUGHT
HER TO
THE
VILLAGE...





W
H

WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?
HAVE
YOU NO
MERCY?



YOU'RE
LETTING
HER
STARVE
TO DEATH.
POOR
THING.



AND
YOU'RE
SUP-
POSED
TO BE A
GOD.





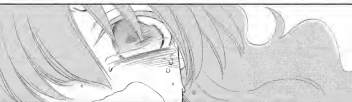




**"YOU'RE
NO
GOD!"**



LET'S
ENTERTAIN
OURSELVES
BY SEEING
WHAT'S GOING
ON IN THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD.



BUT
EVEN IF
I COULD
HAVE
SPOKEN...



WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO SEE
TOO?

...I'M
SURE
HE
WOULDN'T
HAVE
UNDER-
STOOD
ANYWAY.

When I'm coming up with a character, I always think about them in color, so my concept has a color attached in my head. Asahi's color is pink, or maybe a light scarlet. I conceived of her having red hair, but Nakaba, the main character from my last comic, *Dawn of the Arcana*, was a redhead too! This time I wanted it to be a little more natural-looking. I pictured a more orangey red this time, but when I went to color it, it just ended up being pink. It's a faint scarlet or a sort of dawn-like color, so I named her Asahi, after the rising sun. Subaru's name also came from his theme color. I envisioned him as green, so the first character in his name is a word for green. Of course, the water god is pale blue. The other gods have pretty simple theme colors too. Red for fire, etc. I'm really excited to draw all the gods in color.

Send your thoughts here! ↓

Rei Toma
c/o The Water Dragon's Bride Editor
VIZ Media
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco,
CA 94107

Volume 2 is all ready to go! Hope
you like it! (End of commercial.)
See you again in volume 2!

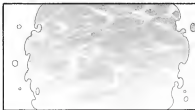
Rei
Toma





CHAPTER

3







ASAHI

...



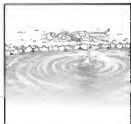
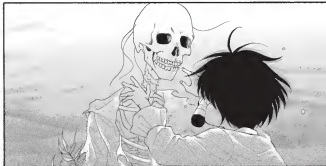
P
L
S
H
H













...BUT
I STILL
CAN'T
BREATHE.

I'M NOT
UNDERWATER
ANYMORE...







A close-up of a young girl with short, spiky hair and pigtails. She has a distressed expression, with tears on her face and a slightly open mouth. She is wearing a light-colored shirt.

HER
BODY
WASN'T
THERE.

ASAHI...

A wide shot of a bright, hazy sky with soft, wispy clouds. The light is diffused, creating a dreamlike atmosphere.

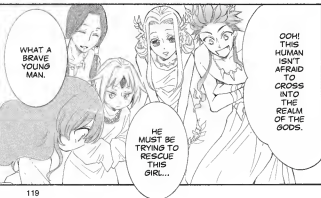
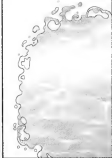
HE
TOOK HER
INTO HIS
REALM,
THEN.

THE GOD
MUST HAVE
THOUGHT
SHE WAS SO
BEAUTIFUL
HE COULDN'T
LET HER GO.

A young girl with pigtails is seen from behind, standing on a grassy hill. She is looking out over a vast, open landscape under a bright sky. She is wearing a light-colored shirt and pants.

I'LL
BRING
YOU BACK.
I SWEAR
IT.

ASAHI...





HA HA!
LOOKS LIKE
YOU'VE GOT
A RIVAL
FOR THIS
LITTLE ONE'S
AFFECTIONS,
EH?



LET'S!

OOH,
THAT
SOUNDS
FUN.

WHAT
DO YOU
THINK? SHALL
WE BET ON
WHETHER
OR NOT THIS
YOUNGSTER
CAN RESCUE
THE GIRL?



IN THAT
CASE, WE'D
BETTER
GIVE HIM A
FIGHTING
CHANCE.





WELL
...

IT'S
NOT FAIR
TO LOCK
HER UP IN A
PLACE ONLY
YOU CAN
GET TO.



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?
I DIDN'T
AUTHORIZE
THAT.



HMPH.

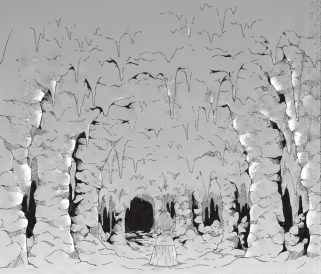


NOT
THAT IT
MAKES A
DIFFERENCE.
HE WON'T
BE ABLE
TO SET
HER
FREE.

VERY
WELL. I'LL
LEVEL THE
PLAYING
FIELD
AGAIN.

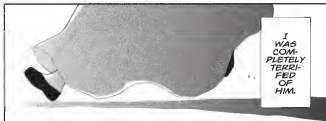




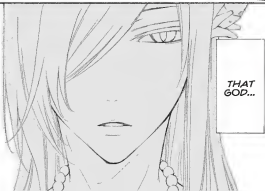




I
WAS
SO
AFRAID
...



I
WAS
COM-
PLETELY
TERRI-
FIED
OF
HIM.



THAT
GOD...



...GAZING
DOWN AT
ME AS MY
PRECIOUS
LIFE WAS
FADING
AWAY.

HE'D
JUST
WATCHED
ME AS I
NEARLY
STARVED
TO
DEATH...



A GOD
WHO
DOESN'T
UNDER-
STAND
THAT
HUMANS
CAN
STARVE
TO
DEATH...

A GOD
WHO
CALLS
HUMANS
FILTH
AND
LAUGHS
...



A GOD
WHO
WATCHES
THE
OUTSIDE
WORLD
FOR
ENTER-
TAINMENT
...



...
BECAUSE
HE WAS
BORED.

I'D
COME
CLOSE
TO THE
BRINK
OF
DEATH...



THAT'S
WHY...

...THIS
WORLD
WAS
COM-
PLETELY
TERRI-
FYING.

FOR A
LITTLE
GIRL
LIKE ME,
WHO'D
BEEN
LOVED
AND PRO-
TECTED
BY HER
PARENTS...



ASAHI!!







... SUBARU'S
HAND
REACHING
OUT
TOWARD
ME WAS
THE MOST
REASSURING
SIGHT I
COULD
HAVE EVER
IMAGINED.









POOR
THINGS
...



NOW
THEY'RE
EACH
SEEING THE
OTHER AS
MONSTERS.



THEY
MUST
BE SO
SCARED.



WHAT
WILL
HAPPEN
NOW?



DASH







IT'S
JUST
THE
GOD'S
TRICK!



"I'LL
LEVEL
THE
PLAYING
FIELD
AGAIN."

"YOU'LL
ONLY
TERRIFY
HIM."



I
WONDER
HOW
SUBARU'S...

...SEEING
ME?



YOU'RE
REALLY
SUBARU,
AREN'T
YOU?



SUBARU

...



I
CAN'T
TALK

...



PLEASE.

PLEASE

...

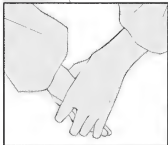
DON'T
LEAVE
ME
BEHIND!

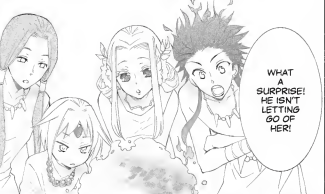
DON'T
LET GO
OF MY
HAND...

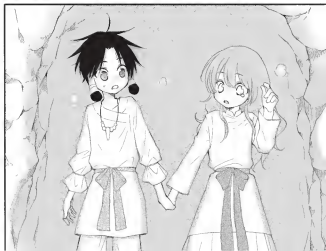
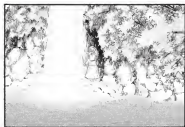


A large hand is shown squeezing a smaller hand. The word "SQUEEZE" is written in a stylized, outlined font below the hands.

SQUEEZE





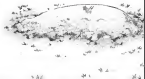








EVEN
IF YOU
HAD...



...BECOME
A PITIFUL
CORPSE
LIKE
THEM...



...I
WOULD
NEVER...

...HAVE
LOOKED
AWAY
FROM
YOU.

SO I'LL
NEVER...

...LET
GO OF
YOUR
HAND.

ASAHI...

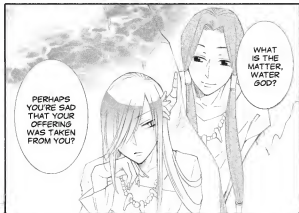
NOW
THAT I'VE
GOTTEN
HOLD OF
YOU...

...I'M NOT
GOING
TO LET
YOU GO
AGAIN.





WHO
COULD HAVE
KNOWN
THAT SUCH A
YOUNG BOY
WOULD WIN
AGAINST THE
ILLUSIONS
OF A
GOD?



PERHAPS
YOU'RE SAD
THAT YOUR
OFFERING
WAS TAKEN
FROM YOU?



WELL...



NOW
WE SHALL
SEE WHAT
HAPPENS
TO HER...

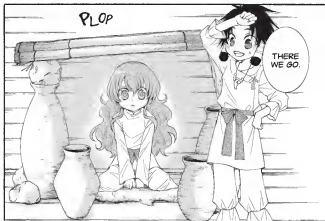
...WHEN
SHE
RETURNS
TO THE VERY
VILLAGE THAT
SACRIFICED
HER.



CHAPTER

4









WE
WERE...

... WAS
A
SECRET
BASE.

THIS
—

...
SUCH
CHILD-
REN.

MY
MOM
FOUND
IT
RIGHT
AWAY,
AND I
GOT IN A
LOT OF
TROUBLE.

ONCE, I
FOUND
A KITTEN
AND
THOUGHT
I COULD
KEEP IT
IN THE
CLOSET.



... I
KNEW
I'D
BE IN
TROUBLE
IF IT WAS
FOUND.

IF I
HAD
SOME-
THING I
WASN'T
SUP-
POSED
TO HAVE...

WE
REALLY
WERE
JUST
CHILD-
REN.

SINCE
THAT
WAS THE
LIFE I'D
LIVED,
I DIDN'T
KNOW
ANYTHING
I DIDN'T
UNDER-
STAND.

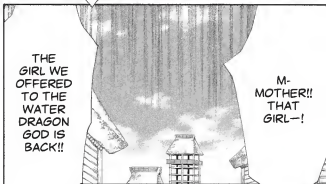
... I
COULDN'T
LIVE
WITHOUT
THE PRO-
TECTION
OF AN
ADULT.

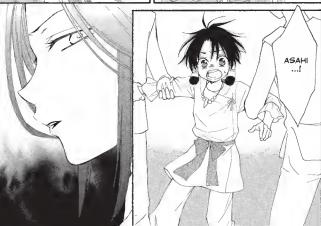
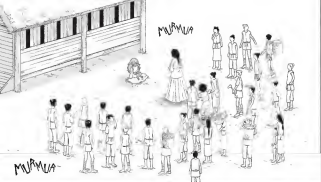
... THAT
THERE
WASN'T
A
MOTHER
HERE
WHO
WOULD
GENTLY
SCOLD
ME...

EVEN
THOUGH
I
ALREADY
KNEW...













THIS
MUST BE
DUE TO THE
FACT THAT
SHE'S BEEN
TOUCHED
BY THE
WATER
DRAGON
GOD'S
RAGE.



OH MY
GOOD-
NESS.
CAN
SHE NO
LONGER
SPEAK?



MOTHER
...!

PLEASE
DON'T DO
ANYTHING
AWFUL
TO HER!

PLEASE
...

ASAHI'S
NOT
BAD!



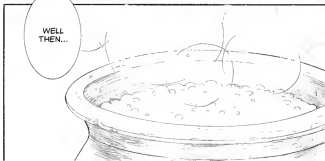
ASAHI!



SUBARU...!







...THEN
YOUR
HAND
WILL
NOT
BURN.



IF YOU ARE
NOT AN EVIL
CREATURE
WHO WILL
BRING
CALAMITY
UNTO OUR
VILLAGE...



HOWEVER...





...YOUR
HAND
WILL
BURN.

IF YOU
ARE
EVIL...



WHAT
IS SHE
GOING
TO DO?

WHAT...?



...IN
THERE?!

IS SHE
PUTTING
MY HAND...











OH...



WE
HAVE
TO KILL
H—



WHAT
SHOULD
WE DO
WITH THE
GIRL?



MOVE
AWAY
FROM
THERE





WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

WHAT
DO I
DO?!

MOVE
ASIDE,
SUBARU!



W...



GIVE
THAT
GIRL
TO US!



WHY
NOT JUST
LEAVE
HER AS
IS?



WHETHER
SHE LIVES
OR DIES IS
THE WILL OF
THE GOD,
ISN'T IT?

THERE'S
NO NEED TO
DIRECTLY
RENDER
JUDGMENT.
SHE'S VERY
YOUNG, AND
THIS IS A
VERY BAD
BURN.

SHE'LL
DEFINITELY
SUFFER.



LET'S
WAIT FOR
WHAT
THE GOD
WILLS.

YES...
THAT'S
TRUE.



SUBARU
...

...GIVE
ASAHI UP,
MOTHER.

I
WILL
NOT...

NOT
TO
YOU...

...AND
NOT TO
THAT
GOD.





I'M
GOING
TO GET
COOL
WATER.

WAIT
FOR ME,
ASAHI.



NOT
JUST
MY
HAND...

IT
HURTS...

IT
HURTS SO
MUCH...

...EVERYWHERE...



IT'S
HOT...

IT
HURTS...

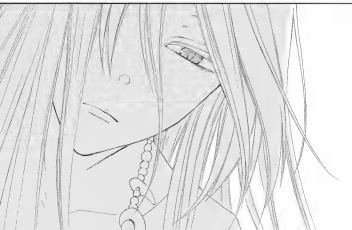
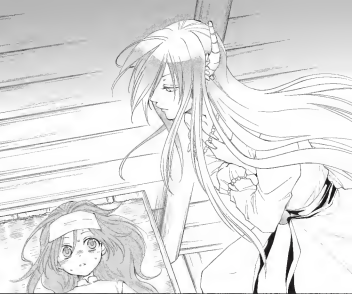


SOMEONE...



**HELP
ME...!**







...GOING
TO
HELP
ME?

IS
THIS
GOD...

NO.

HE WOULD
NEVER
HELP ME.



...LIKE
THIS.

HE'LL
JUST...

...STARE
AT ME...

HE'LL
ALWAYS
JUST...

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
IF YOU
BELIEVE
IN HIM
OR NOT.

IT
DOESN'T
MATTER
WHETHER
YOU'RE
BAD OR
GOOD.

...WATCH.

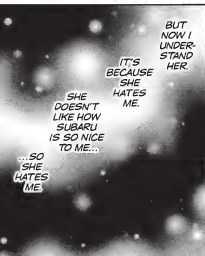
HE'S
COLD,
JUST
LIKE
WATER.

WHY DO THE
PEOPLE HERE
THINK THAT
THIS GOD
WOULD DO
SOMETHING
FOR THEM?



...TERRIFYING.

AND
HE'S
SO...



BUT
NOW I
UNDER-
STAND
HER.

IT'S
BECAUSE
SHE
HATES
ME.

SHE
DOESN'T
LIKE HOW
SUBARU
IS SO NICE
TO ME...

...SO
SHE
HATES
ME.

I'M
AFRAID OF
SUBARU'S
MOM TOO.





...I'D RATHER
BE AFRAID OF A
PERSON WITH
FEELINGS I
UNDERSTAND.

STOP
LOOKING
AT ME.



BUT IF
I HAVE
TO BE
AFRAID...

DON'T LOOK
AT ME!!

PLAP

WHEN
IT
COMES
TO
GODS,
THIS
ONE...





... IS LIKE
A SECRET
BASE
BUILT BY
CHILDREN.



TOO
FOOL-
ISH.

TOO
SIMPLE



...IT
MUST HAVE
BEEN A
PRIVILEGIOUS
AFTER-
THOUGHT,
TAKING
A MERE
MOMENT.

WHEN
THIS
GOD
WAS
CREATED
...



DID YOU
JUST...
SLAP A
GOD...?

FWUMPH

ARE
YOU...
...STILL
BORED?

HEY...
WATER
DRAGON
GOD...





THAT
A GOD'S
JUDGMENT
WOULD
FALL
UPON
THEM?

WHAT DID
THEY THINK
WOULD
HAPPEN
UPON YOUR
RETURN?



BUT
YOU HAVE
NOT LOOKED
AT ME
WITH YOUR
PLEADING
EYES,
HAVE YOU...



WHAT
WOULD
MAKE
ME WANT
TO DO
SOMETHING
LIKE
THAT?

HUMANS
ARE TRULY
FOOLISH
CREA-
TURES.



GIRL.

HEY.



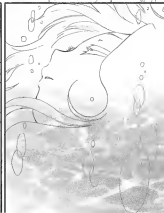
HEY.

ENTERTAIN-
MENT.



ARE
YOU
GOING
TO
DIE?





WHAT A
TRIVIAL
LITTLE
CREATURE



OOP.







...IS
THIS...?

WHAT...

The Water Dragon's Bride

VOL. 1

Shojo Beat Edition

Story and Art by
Rei Toma

SUJIN NO HANAYOME Vol.1

by Rei TOMA

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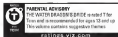
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San Francisco, CA 94107

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First printing, April 2017



This is the volume 1 graphic novel
of my new series!

It's a fantasy work again.

I'd be really happy if you enjoyed it!

- REI TOMA



Rei Toma has been drawing since childhood, and she created her first complete manga for a graduation project in design school. When she drew the short story manga "Help Me, Dentist," it attracted a publisher's attention and she made her debut right away. After she found success as a manga artist, acclaim in other art fields started to follow as she did illustrations for novels and video game character designs. She is also the creator of *Dawn of the Arcana*, available in North America from VIZ Media.